Secretary level talks on Siachen

†387. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talk was held between India and Pakistan on 22^{n0} May, 2005 for continuation of ceasefire being maintained for the last one and half year and maintaining of *status quo* in the near future in Siachen glacier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved through talk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The Defence Secretaries level talks between Pakistan and India to discuss Siachen Issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Islamabad on 26-27 May 2005. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation. The two Defence Secretaries agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the Siachen issue in a peaceful manner.

India's position on the Siachen issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered.

Inflow of terrorists across border

388. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reduction in inflow of terrorists across border after initiation of peace process;

(b) whether Government have held any talks with the Government of Pakistan to check this completely; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi**.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) There has been a reduction in infiltration across the border since the start of the peace process. Pakistan has, however, so far not taken any significant action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism.

Government is monitoring the situation very closely, and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6,2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed, *inter alia,* the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004.

Road link between Kargil and Skardu

389. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open road link between Kargil and Skardu in the Pakistan controlled areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the opening of roads between Kashmir and various places in Pakistan have not been found economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During President Musharrafs visit to India in April 2005, India proposed to Pakistan opening of a road link between Kargil and Skardu, and has reiterated this proposal subsequently. Pakistan's response is awaited.

Indian investment in Pakistan

390. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has recently allowed private investment from India in various fields;